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Agenda item 9
Report of the Economic and Social Council

Egypt:* draft resolution

Graduation of countries from the least developed country category

The General Assembly,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2018/27 of 24 July 2018 on the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its twentieth session,[1]

Taking into account its resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004, 65/286 of 29 June 2011 and 67/221 of 21 December 2012 on a smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries,

Recalling paragraph 10 of its resolution 67/221, in which it decided to take note of the decisions of the Economic and Social Council regarding the graduation of countries from the least developed country category, as well as the inclusion of countries in that category, at the first session of the General Assembly following the adoption of the decisions,

Emphasizing that graduation from the least developed country category is a major milestone for the country involved as it means that significant progress has been made towards reaching at least some of its development goals,

1. *Reaffirms* that graduating from the category of least developed countries should not result in a disruption of development plans, programmes and projects;

2. *Takes note* of the endorsement by the Economic and Social Council of the recommendation of the Committee for Development Policy that Bhutan be graduated from the least developed country category, also takes note of the fact that the Committee found reasonable the request by Bhutan to align the effective graduation date with the end of the country's twelfth national development plan, in 2023, and decides to provide Bhutan, on an exceptional basis, with an additional preparatory period of two years before the start of the three-year preparatory period leading to graduation;

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2018, Supplement No. 13* (E/2018/33).

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3. *Invites* Bhutan to prepare, during the five-year period between the adoption of the present resolution and its graduation from the least developed country category, its national smooth-transition strategy, with the support of the United Nations system and in cooperation with its bilateral, regional and multilateral development and trading partners;

4. *Takes note* of the endorsement by the Council of the recommendation of the Committee that Solomon Islands be graduated from the least developed country category, and decides to provide Solomon Islands, on an exceptional basis, with an additional preparatory period of three years before the start of the three-year preparatory period leading to graduation;

5. *Invites* Solomon Islands to prepare, during the six-year period between the adoption of the present resolution and its graduation from the least developed country category, its national smooth-transition strategy, with the support of the United Nations system and in cooperation with its bilateral, regional and multilateral development and trading partners;

6. *Takes note* of the endorsement by the Council of the recommendation of the Committee that Sao Tome and Principe be graduated from the least developed country category, also takes note of the fact that the Committee found reasonable the request by Sao Tome and Principe to postpone its effective graduation date to 2024 so as to enable it to enact necessary internal reforms and align its transition strategy with its national development plan, and decides to provide Sao Tome and Principe, on an exceptional basis, with an additional preparatory period of three years before the start of the three-year preparatory period leading to graduation;

7. *Invites* Sao Tome and Principe to prepare, during the six-year period between the adoption of the present resolution and its graduation from the least developed country category, its national smooth-transition strategy, with the support of the United Nations system and in cooperation with its bilateral, regional and multilateral development and trading partners;

8. *Requests* the entities of the United Nations development system to provide assistance to graduating countries in the formulation and implementation of their national transition strategies and to consider country-specific support for graduated countries for a fixed period of time and in a predictable manner.